

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method for identifying a compound suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in a subject, said method comprising contacting a cell capable of expressing Formin Homologue Overexpressed in Spleen (FHOS) mRNA with a test compound and determining the effect of the test compound on expression of FHOS mRNA, wherein a stimulatory effect is indicative of the compound being suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in said subject.

10. (Original) A method for identifying a compound suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in a subject, said method comprising contacting a cell capable of expressing Formin Homologue Overexpressed in Spleen (FHOS) protein with a test compound and determining the effect of the test compound on expression of FHOS protein, wherein a stimulatory effect is indicative of the compound being suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in said subject.

11. (Original) A method for identifying a compound suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in a subject, said method comprising contacting a cell which expresses Formin Homologue Overexpressed in Spleen (FHOS) protein with a test compound and determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein, wherein a stimulatory effect is indicative of the compound being suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in said subject.

12. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a compound suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in a subject, said method comprising contacting a Formin Homologue Overexpressed in Spleen (FHOS) protein or biologically active ~~portion~~ fragment

thereof with a test compound and determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein or ~~portion~~ biologically active fragment thereof, wherein a stimulatory effect is indicative of the compound being suitable for use in treating diabetes or insulin resistance in said subject.

13-26. (Canceled)

27. **(New)** The method of claim 9, wherein the test compound is determined to have a stimulatory effect on expression of FHOS mRNA when the level of expression of FHOS mRNA is greater in the presence of the test compound than the level of expression of FHOS mRNA in the absence of the test compound.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 10, wherein the test compound is determined to have a stimulatory effect on expression of FHOS protein when the level of expression of FHOS protein is greater in the presence of the test compound than the level of expression of FHOS protein in the absence of the test compound.

29. **(New)** The method of claims 11 or 12, wherein the test compound is determined to have a stimulatory effect on a biological activity of the FHOS protein when the activity of the FHOS protein is greater in the presence of the test compound than the activity of the FHOS protein in the absence of the test compound.

30. **(New)** The method of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the cell is a yeast cell.

31. **(New)** The method of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

32. **(New)** The method of claim 31, wherein the cell is a muscle cell or a precursor thereof.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 31, wherein the cell is an adipocyte or a precursor thereof.

34. (New) The method of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the step of contacting is carried out *in vitro*.

35. (New) The method of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the step of contacting is carried out *in vivo*.

36. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein determining the effect of the test compound on expression of FHOS mRNA comprises detecting the presence of FHOS mRNA transcript.

37. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein determining the effect of the test compound on expression of FHOS mRNA comprises detecting expression of a reporter gene operatively linked to at least one FHOS transcriptional regulatory element.

38. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the test compound directly stimulates FHOS mRNA expression by stimulating FHOS transcription.

39. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the test compound indirectly stimulates FHOS mRNA expression by downmodulating FHOS mRNA degradation.

40. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the test compound directly stimulates FHOS protein expression by stimulating FHOS translation.

41. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the test compound indirectly stimulates FHOS protein expression by downmodulating FHOS protein degradation.

42. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein determining the effect of the test compound on expression of FHOS protein comprises detecting the presence of FHOS protein using an anti-FHOS antibody.

43. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the cell further expresses a FHOS target molecule, and wherein determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein comprises detecting the binding of the FHOS protein to the FHOS target molecule.

44. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the cell further expresses a FHOS target molecule, and wherein determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein comprises detecting the activity of the FHOS target molecule.

45. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising contacting the FHOS protein or biologically active fragment thereof with a FHOS target molecule, wherein determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein comprises detecting the binding of the FHOS protein to the FHOS target molecule.

46. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising contacting the FHOS protein or biologically active fragment thereof with a FHOS target molecule, wherein determining the effect of the test compound on a biological activity of the FHOS protein comprises detecting the activity of the FHOS target molecule.